

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02264 01 OF 02 160114Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 DHA-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4495

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2264

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UR, US, UNGA, PARM, VM, SHUR, XO,

SUBJECT: SOVIET DISCUSSION OF UN-RELATED MATTERS

SUMMARY: SOVIET DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OVINNIKOV AND COUNSELLOR TULINOV CALLED ON AMBASSADOR LEONARD JULY 15 AT THEIR REQUEST TO DISCUSS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD PREPCOM), THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE 31ST GA AND THE REGULAR 32ND GA. IN ADDITION THEY TOUCHED ON HUMAN RIGHTS (SEPTTEL), VIETNAM ADMISSION, CHARTER EVISION AND INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. SSOD PREPCOM: OVINNIKOV SAID SOVIET CONTACT WITH NONALIGNED AND WESTERN DELEGATIONS INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS TOWARD IMPLEMENTING THEIR INTENTION TO PREPARE DRAFTS OF A FINAL DOCUMENT ON THE SSOD. THE SOVIET UNION, THEREFORE, CONCLUDES THAT THE PREPCOM WILL BE BASICALLY CONCERNED WITH PROCEDURAL MATTERS, INCLUDING A DRAFT REPORT TO THE GA. OVINNIKOV SAID THE SOVIETS WILL RAISE THE QUESTION OF ENLARGING THE PREPCOM. HE NOTED THAT CZECH AND BULGARIA STILL DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE, AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS NO FIXED PREFERENCE FOR THE ENLARGED NUMBER OR THE IDENTITY OF OTHER STATES WHICH MIGHT WISH TO JOIN, SO LONG AS THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES THE EASTERN EUROPEAN CLIENTS OF
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02264 01 OF 02 160114Z

THE SOVIET UNION. OVINNIKOV ASKED WHETHER THE WEO GROUP IS SEEKING ENLARGEMENT OF THE PREPCOM.

2. LEONARD AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF A COMMON SUBSTANTIVE DRAFT BEING PREPARED BY THE NONALIGNED OR OTHERS, BUT HE NOTED THAT THE RECENT STANLEY FOUNDATION CONFERENCE IN MEXICO REVEALED THAT THE MEXICANS (GARCIA ROBLES)

ARE DRAFTING VOLUMINOUS TEXTS ON THE ELEMENTS OF A FINAL DOCUMENT FROM THE MEXICAN POINT OF VIEW. WHETHER THERE IS A SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT NO DOUBT WILL DEPEND UPON DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE COMING WEEKS WHICH MAY INFLUENCE THE GROUP OF 77, THE YUGOSLAVS AND OTHERS. HE SAID WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE IS A MOVE AMONG THE WEOS TOWARD ENLARGEMENT OF THE PREPCOM. OVINNIKOV ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE MATTER OF ENLARGEMENT WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE RATHER THAN PROCEDURE. LEONARD SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW ALL THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD COME DOWN ON THAT QUESTION, BUT HE PERSONALLY CANNOT SEE THAT ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. OVINNIKOV CHIMED IN THAT MEMBERSHIP FOR MOST OF THESE ADDITIONAL STATES IS PRIMARILY A MATTER OF PRESTIGE.

3. CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUBSTANTIVE US POSITION, LEONARD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS STILL PREMATURE, BUT BY FALL THE US WOULD HAVE SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL WORKING ON A POSITION AS THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE DISARMAMENT PROBLEM GENERALLY EVOLVES.

4. OVINNIKOV SAID THE YUGOSLAVS ALSO ARE WAITING FOR THESE SHORT-TERM DEVELOPMENTS. HE WENT ON TO ASK WHETHER THE US EXPECTED ANY PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES IN THE PREPCOM. FOR EXAMPLE, IF FINAL DOCUMENTS ARE NOT YET TO BE DRAFTED, WHAT WILL BE THE FOCUS OF THE NEXT PREPCOM MEETING? LEONARD SAID THAT ONE SUGGESTION LIKELY TO DRAW CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02264 01 OF 02 160114Z

DISCUSSION IS THAT OF THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIPS. THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION MUST CONSIDER THEIR RESPONSE TO THE NEW FRENCH POSITION. OVINNIKOV SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT THE LDC'S MIGHT EVEN SURFACE A SEPARATE FINAL DOCUMENT ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE NEXT PREPCOM. LEONARD CITED THE DISCUSSION RECENTLY IN MEXICO IN AGREEING THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIVES AS JAIPAL OF INDIA AND GARCIA ROBLES OF MEXICO APPEAR TO BE SENSIBLE ON MOST PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. HE SUGGESTED TO OVINNIKOV THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION TO REMAIN OPEN-MINDED ON THESE QUESTIONS. THE SAME MIGHT BE SAID AS WE APPROACH THE QUESTIONS OF REFORM OF THE WORK OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE IN THE GA. TULINOV ASKED WHETHER THE US WOULD BE WORKING MORE ON THIS QUESTION. LEONARD SAID HE WOULD OF COURSE, BUT IT WOULD INVOLVE A TASK FORCE IN THE DEPARTMENT. TULINOV SUGGESTED THAT WE STAY IN TOUCH ON THIS QUESTION.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02264 02 OF 02 160137Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2264

5. 31ST GA RESUMED SESSION: OVINNIKOV SAID THAT THEY ESTIMATE THAT NOTHING FUNDAMENTAL OR SUBSTANTIVE IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN THE RESUMED SESSION. THEIR SOUNDINGS IN THE COMMUNITY INDICATE A MOOD CALLING FOR A SIMPLE AND BRIEF SESSION, TURNING TO SECOND COMMITTEE BUSINESS AFTER THE CEREMONIAL OPENING AND PROBABLY ADJOURNING WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE CURRENT SESSION OF ECOSOC MAY GENERATE SOME SUBSTANCE FOR THE RESUMED SESSION, BUT THE SOVIETS STILL ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE RESUMED SESSION WILL BE PRIMARILY PROCEDURAL, SATISFYING THE REQUIREMENT FOR RESUMPTION AND BRIDGING SIMPLY INTO THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE 32ND GA. HE MENTIONED THAT THEY HAVE HEARD WORD THAT THERE WILL NOT BE MANY MINISTERS ATTENDING THE RESUMED SESSION. LEONARD CONCURRED.

6. 32ND GA REGULAR SESSION: OVINNIKOV ASKED WHAT QUESTIONS THE US BELIEVES WILL BE IMPORTANT IN THE 32ND GA. LEONARD SAID HE THOUGHT MUCH WILL DEPEND ON PROGRESS THAT IS MADE IN THE COMING WEEKS IN THE FOUR BROAD PROBLEM AREAS WITH WHICH WE MUST DEAL: AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC. IF THERE IS DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE PROGRESS IN ANY ONE OF THESE AREAS, THE MAIN PARTIES CONCERNED COULD GENERATE SHARP CONTENTION. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02264 02 OF 02 160137Z

ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD PROVE LESS DIFFICULT. HE STRESSED THE INDEPENDENT IMPORTANCE OF EACH OF THE PROBLEM AREAS; I.E. PROGRESS OF LACK OF IT IN ONE IS NOT APT TO AFFECT DIRECTLY WHAT HAPPENS IN THE OTHER AREAS. LEONARD NOTED THAT ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND DISARMAMENT IT IS BASICALLY UP TO THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION TO ENSURE BY THEIR ACTIONS THAT

PROGRESS CAN BE SHOWN.

7. CONCERNING US-SOVIET BILATERALS THIS YEAR, IT WAS AGREED THAT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT MAY BE WORKED OUT FOR GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TALKS IN WASHINGTON OR MOSCOW, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE TWO NEW YORK MISSIONS AGAIN UNDERTAKE TO REVIEW THEIR POSITIONS JUST PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE GA. OVINNIKOV SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING NEW YORK FOR MOSCOW SUNDAY JULY 17, AND HE REQUESTED ANY LATE WORD ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES TO VISIT MOSCOW FOR BILATERALS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK. (NOTE: FROM THE WAY IN WHICH OVINNIKOV SPOKE OF HIS "LEAVE", WE UNFORTUNATELY CONCLUDED THAT HE IS DEPARTING ON HOME LEAVE AND RETURN ORDERS RATHER THAN TRANSFER.)

8. VIETNAM: OVINNIKOV ASKED WHETHER WE ANTICIPATED ANY DIFFICULTIES IN THE ADMISSION OF VIETNAM. LEONARD SAID WE DID NOT BUT HE COULD NOT MAKE CLEAR THE PRECISE US POSITION IN VOTING ON THIS SECURITY COUNCIL ITEM.

9. CHARTER REVISION: TULINOV SUGGESTED THAT IN AUGUST MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION, US, UK AND FRANCE SHOULD BE RESUMED TO ASSESS THE SITUATION ON CHARTER REVISION. HE SPECULATED THAT THIS COULD BE A "HOT SUBJECT" IN THE GA AND FELT THAT THE FOUR SHOULD RESUME THEIR CONSULTATIONS.

10. OVINNIKOV EXPLAINED THIS INTERESTS AGAINST THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02264 02 OF 02 160137Z

BACKGROUND OF THE SHOWDOWN AND VOTE WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST MONTH IN THE COMMITTEE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS SHOWS A NEW TREND TOWARD COHESION OF POSITION OF A STRONG MAJORITY, RAISING THE QUESTION WHETHER THE MINORITY OF THE FOUR SHOULD NOT CONSULT CLOSELY IN ADVANCE OF THE FALL SEASON. HE SUGGESTED THAT DURING THE GA THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ITSELF MAY BE A QUESTION. LEONARD EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AT THIS SOVIET INTEREST BECAUSE OUR SOUNDINGS INDICATED THAT THE G-77 DOES NOT EXPECT A DRIVE ON CHARTER REVISION. INSTEAD THEY HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST ONLY IN CHANGES THAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT REVISION OF THE CHARTER. OVINNIKOV OBSERVED THAT, WHILE THE VETO RIGHT IS OBVIOUSLY IN NO DANGER, BOTH THE OAU AND THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED IN THE CHARTER.

WQM INDIAN OCEAN TALKS: IN RESPONSE TO LEONARD'S QUESTIONS, TULINOV SAID THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS WELL SATISFIED WITH THE RECENT TALKS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. THEY ARE TERMED TO HAVE BEEN BUSINESS-LIKE AND SERIOUS EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE ONLY EXPLORATORY. OVINNIKOV NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER RESPONDED TO PRESS QUESTIONS JULY 12 WITH REFERENCES TO PREVENTING FURTHER MMITIARIZATION

IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, OMITTING THE NOTION OF DEMILITARIZATION.
LEONARD SAID PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT WAS OF COURSE ABBRE-
VIATED AND FOCUSSED ON THE FIRST STEP IN THE LONG PROCESS.
HE HAS ALSO SPOKEN OF DEMILITARIZATION ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS. LEONARD SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH ACDA DIRECTOR
WARNKE, WHO EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE TALKS AND
THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS WERE INDEED SERIOUS
ABOUT THEM.
LEONARD

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